



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Work continues on draft shoreline plan; Corps announces new schedule

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced a new schedule today for completion of the updated McNary Shoreline Management Plan.

Walla Walla District planners anticipated having a draft plan and environmental assessment available for public review and comment by the end of April 2007. That schedule changed due to potential impacts resulting from the 2004 NOAA Biological Opinion remand process. Corps officials felt it prudent to wait for the 9th Circuit Federal Court opinion on the remand of the Biological Opinion for the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS), which may impact management of the federal shoreline.

In an effort to make progress on the plan while awaiting the new biological opinion, the planning team has been coordinating this past year with the resource agencies with regulatory oversight of McNary Reservoir, including National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Coast Guard and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The new schedule to complete the McNary Shoreline Management Plan is as follows:

- Complete Endangered Species Act Consultation----- September 2008
- Release Draft Plan and Environmental Assessment----- October 2008
- Public comment and review period----- October-November 2008
- Public Meeting----- November 2008

The shoreline plan establishes policy to protect and manage the Lake Wallula shoreline (the reservoir portion of the Columbia River upstream of McNary Lock and Dam), with the goals of public safety and environmental quality preservation.

Since the shoreline plan update in 1983, environmental and cultural resource requirements changed significantly, requiring management updates as well as review of the permitting process for private boat docks and vegetation modifications.

“Because we must balance the human recreation desires while fulfilling federal obligations to manage for species listed under the Endangered Species Act, the processes and complex issues associated with the McNary Shoreline Plan update are time consuming,” said Cindy Boen, McNary Shoreline Management Plan project manager. “We’re committed to finding that balance with this plan.”

For information regarding the McNary Shoreline Management Plan, contact the Corps at (509) 527-7020 or visit the Corps’ Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil/McNaryShoreline/.

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